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SENATE MEMORIAL 75

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Lynda M. Lovejoy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES UNDERTAKE A HEALTH STUDY OF RESIDENTS IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA OF THE STATE, WITH EMPHASIS ON RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES.

WHEREAS, there are presently two coal-fired power plants operating in the Four Corners region of the Navajo Nation that generate significant amounts of air pollution; and

WHEREAS, there is a proposal to construct an additional coal-fired power plant in the Four Corners region of the Navajo Nation that may increase current levels of air pollution in that region; and

WHEREAS, there are reports that residents of the Four Corners region of the state suffer respiratory illnesses at a rate that is significantly higher than that experienced by

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1 state residents in general; and

2 WHEREAS, there may be a connection between the rate of
3 respiratory illnesses among residents of the Four Corners
4 region of the state and the levels of air pollution in that
5 region, but no studies have been undertaken to establish
6 whether such a relationship exists;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, in cooperation
9 with other appropriate state, tribal and federal agencies, be
10 requested to undertake a health study of residents in the Four
11 Corners region of the state, with an emphasis on respiratory
12 illnesses; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
15 secretary of Indian affairs, the president of the Navajo
16 Nation, the speaker of the Navajo Nation council, the federal
17 assistant secretary for Indian affairs and the director of the
18 Navajo area of the Indian health service.